



A&E: Mel Gibson talks about his *Passion*

Opinions: New definition of environmentalists: Christians

Sports: ‘Bell Tower’ rings true as TU starter

FEBRUARY 20, 2004

Tuition rates climb

Increase brings next year’s total to \$25,126

By ERIK KIELISCH
STAFF WRITER

It's time to break open the piggy banks. Tuition costs are increasing again.

Tuition costs are increasing to \$19,450 for the 2004-2005 school year. Room, board, and miscellaneous fees are also increasing to bring next year's total to \$25,126 -- a 5.48 percent increase up from last year's 5.31 percent increase. "Tuition and related fees rise nearly every new academic

year," Vice President for Business and Finance Ron Sutherland said. "The costs of tuition will generally increase yearly by 4-6 percent."

The increased cost is due to faculty and staff pay increases, personnel health insurance increases, the Kesler Center operations, additional adjunct professors, increased utilities, marketing, travel and other factors.

"The Town of Upland is raising their water rates 10 percent each year, so that's a substantial

amount of expense," Director of Financial Aid Tim Nace said.

The President's Council determines tuition after reviewing university expenses.

"It's one of the most deliberate and time-consuming aspects of our work," Sutherland said.

"As tuition goes up, the amount allotted to financial aid goes up as well," Nace said.

The discount rate is a percentage of tuition revenues that is given back to students in the form of merit-based scholarships and grants.

"The higher the discount rate, the higher the financial aid, but in the end it's a wash," Nace said.

"There are some schools that will

intentionally increase their price by a substantial amount and then turn right around and give the majority of students financial aid right back so that they feel better," Nace added. "It's kind of like raising the price and then having a sale of 25percent off."

Administration chose the middle ground and tries to keep the rate low. Taylor's discount rate is approximately 22.1percent of tuition costs while the national average is approximately 30-35 percent.

Administration makes it a priority to have scholarships available to reward academic achievement, and grants to

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External Web site launched with new look

New site a result of months of teamwork

By JOE DARLING
STAFF WRITER

Student blogs and live chapel feeds are only a couple of the changes to Taylor's redesigned Web site, which made its first appearance on the Web last Friday evening at www.taylor.edu.

While the new site provides many improvements and added benefits to Web browsing, Taylor's specific goal is to better reach prospective students and encourage them to make a campus visit.

Taylor administration employed Crane MetaMarketing, a public relations firm based in Atlanta, to aid in revamping the school's electronic information center. They have served Taylor over the past 18 months in image assessment and design. Crane contributed the branding concepts for the new site, such as the color scheme and ovals. Brainstorm, a communications company located in Indianapolis, used Crane's ideas to develop the organization and presentation of the site.

Taylor's Information Technology department assembled a team of professional developers from Taylor's staff led by Ron Eib, director of applications and integration services, to implement the site's content management system.

Another team from University Relations obtained content to fill the electronic pages. Some Taylor students contributed by

compiling information from various departments. These groups aimed to produce a professional Web site for Taylor's online audience.

Evan Kittleman, director of online communication, oversaw efforts to collect the site's content. He was satisfied with the results of the project and the teamwork exhibited by his co-workers.

"The new site is much more vibrant and better reflects the activity and life of the covenant community at Taylor," Kittleman said. "It better reflects us."

The new site offers access to student blogs and streaming video of Taylor's chapel servic-

es. Kittleman hopes these features, which he developed, will give prospective students a better idea of the unique characteristics of Taylor students, by allowing them to read student blogs. The video feeds of chapel will benefit

The new site is much more vibrant and better reflects the activity and life of the covenant community at Taylor.

Evan Kittleman, Director of Online Communication

those exploring Taylor and the members of the Taylor community who are away from campus, according to Kittleman.

"It's a great improvement," Kittleman said. "It's also the beginning of a new stage in our Web site."

An unseen aspect of the Web site is the university staff's ability to easily access and alter the content that appears on the site. Content management is a less demanding task with new software and technology, according to Eib.

Eib, Kittleman, and other team members will continue to update the Web site to provide pertinent and reliable information about Taylor.

First Staff Member of the Year Award seeks nominations

By SHEA KEESLING
STAFF WRITER

Taylor will honor its staff members with a new Staff Member of the Year Award in a spring awards chapel service.

Students, professors, and staff members can nominate someone they think deserves recognition. The Staff Member of the Year will receive \$500 set aside by the human resources department. A nominations committee will look over the nominations and decide who will receive the award. The committee consists of three hourly employees, three salaried employees, two faculty members and two students, including Student Body President Tommy Grimm.

Taylor already honors faculty members with awards. The Staff Member of the Year Award is a new addition to honor those Taylor employees who are not professors, hall directors, or DC and Grille workers. DC and Grille workers are not included because they are not directly employed by Taylor University.

Nominations consist of two forms, one for hourly employees and one for salaried employees. Both can be picked up in the human resources

office located in the Freimuth Administration building.

Nominations ask about staff members' contributions on campus, exhibition of a Christ-like attitude, loyalty to Taylor and expertise in their specified field of work.

"We are trying to develop programs that will celebrate the contributions made by the employees to Taylor," Human Resources Vice President Steve Brogan said. "We currently have faculty awards and we wanted to augment that along with the staff employee awards."

Brogan said he would like to have more student involvement. The human resources office has received a number of nominations, but they are looking for more.

"We take seriously student involvement, equally with any other entity on campus," Brogan said.

"I think that this is a great incentive for the staff members," freshman Sarah Wykstra said. "It's a great way to show them that we do appreciate them and what they do for us. We realize that some of them have the not-so-glamorous jobs on campus, but we also realize that without them Taylor could not function."



Photo by Matt Wissman

Sarah Coe (formerly Sarah Nurmi) of Sara Coe Design speaks to a classroom of students attending the TABS business conference Monday Night. Coe was one of six Taylor graduates asked to return and share their business experiences at the conference.

TABS hosts first big conference

Approximately 200 students attend business conference to hear testimony of six Taylor grads

By AARON SHAPIRO
STAFF WRITER

Monday night the Taylor Association of Business Students hosted their 2004 business conference, providing students with insight into the professional world.

The event was open to students in any major. Six Taylor

business graduates shared from their experiences and answered questions.

The speakers ate dinner with students in the DC's Isely Room at 6 p.m. followed by a few words from 1973 graduate Dave Voris, vice president of Fifth Third National Bank and president of Taylor's National Business Alumni Council.

"The Business Department, TABS and the National Business Alumni Council worked very hard to make this conference a quality event," TABS President Rashel Cary said. "We were not just about advertising to get students to come and then having them be disappointed by the content."

The goal of the conference was to begin preparing students for entering the business world after college, according to Cary. TABS was established in 1985, but Monday was the first time the association held a major business conference.

The conference moved from the DC to the Reade Center where each speaker talked to students in two sessions, with a break between for cookies and

lemonade. Around 200 students attended the conference, according to Cary.

"Our six speakers conveyed their differing messages in a precise and relevant way to Taylor students," Cary said. "With almost 200 students from differing majors in attendance on Monday evening and the many positive responses that we have had from the conference, we feel blessed to have conveyed relevant information to Taylor students that they will be able to apply to their lives."

"I actually only came for the extra credit, but I'm glad I came because I actually heard some good things," junior Jamie Heth said.

"I think it's cool, because for me, I'm from Taiwan, so it's hard for me to get to know some business people," sophomore Stephanie Lu said. "So this time I actually have a resource to get to know some people from the business field."

The speakers were happy to share advice with students. 1995 graduates Josh Matthews and Eric Wood agreed that Taylor helped prepare them for

the professional world, but they also said GPA is not the most important thing.

"I'd say I was pretty well prepared, but I don't think it was so much concerning book-smarts ... I feel like Taylor gave me an advantage because we learned things like leadership and working with groups," Matthews said. "A lot of my counterparts didn't know how to work with groups; they didn't know how to delegate responsibility, or to ask people questions or to get them to buy in to what you are trying to promote."

"I'd rather take someone with a 3.3 that is social and able to communicate, than a 4.0 who can't communicate," he added.

Wood said he learned the most important thing is working hard and being honest.

"It was neat that Taylor grads were willing to travel a significant distance just for our sake," junior Kevin Middlesworth said. "I think it was worthwhile and very beneficial to me and it would be nice if this happened more often."

MAC coffee ministry buys Jumping Bean

By MEGAN ELDER
NEWS EDITOR

With every cup of coffee sold in the Union's Jumping Bean coffee house, Muncie Alliance Church interns get closer to reaching their ministry dreams.

Alliance World Coffees, the primary support of MAC's internship program, bought the Bean in early January and introduced extend-

ed hours and new products to Taylor students.

Former owners Jeremy and Lorie Diller sold the Bean to MAC's coffee ministry on Jan. 5.

With a 22-month-old son and another child due in May, the Dillers felt running the Bean was too demanding.

"We just felt like it was time to move on," Jeremy Diller said.

The Bean already sold AWC products, so selling the company to them seemed like a good option.

"We just felt like selling it to Alliance World Coffees was a good decision and felt like they could invest the time and energy ... and take it to a level, maybe, that we couldn't do as just a couple," Jeremy Diller said.

AWC accepted the offer,

See 'Bean' page 2



Photo by Matt Wissman
Thoennes speaks in chapel for fall Spiritual Renewal.

Thoennes returns to speak at Men’s Conference

BY ERIK KIELISCH
STAFF WRITER

The fall spiritual renewal week speaker Dr. Erik Thoennes is returning to Taylor to teach at the men's conference this weekend.

Junior D.J. Jergensen, conference co-director, has been planning and organizing the conference with the men's ministry cabinet since last year.

"We saw that there is a need on this campus for men to understand their calling as godly men," Jergensen said. "We chose Dr. Thoennes because of the impact that he had on many of us during spiritual renewal week last year. We asked him to connect the talk that he gave on the character of God to those aspects that a man of God should model."

The conference topic is the "The Guts of a Godly Man," based on the godly traits addressed in 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2 and Acts 20:13-38.

"Being a godly man, especially in our culture, is not something you naturally grow into," Thoennes said. "It is something you have to learn and be shown. A godly man finds his identity in Christ, lives with integrity and takes initiative in relationships."

Jergensen hopes the Taylor men will learn practical ways to live according to God's word.

"Dr. Thoennes will challenge us and the way that we live," he said. "We are praying that guys will respond to the truth by altering their lifestyles."

150 men are currently signed up, and Jergensen hopes 300 will come.

"We have room for all the men on campus," Jergensen said. "We will do whatever it takes to get people there."

Josh Garrels and fellow interns from Muncie Alliance Church will lead worship.

"My hope would be that myself and all the brothers would sing with our hearts and invite the Lord's Spirit to come and restore and transform us," Garrels said.

Garrels will have CDs for sale at the conference.

Both men and women on campus are excited about the conference.

"I'm really excited because when [Dr. Thoennes] spoke at spiritual renewal week I was challenged by what he said," senior Isaac Pellerin said.

"It's encouraging to know that men of our generation are concerned about their spiritual growth and desire to know God more," junior Kara Claybrook said.

The conference will be held in the Rediger Chapel Auditorium on Saturday, Feb. 21 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with a break for lunch. Cost is \$5, and tickets can be purchased at the door.

At a glance...
Men’s Conference ‘04

Where: Rediger Chapel
When: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Cost: \$5
Who: men

LIT adds spark to resume

By WHITNEY GABRIELSEN
STAFF WRITER

Monday night in the Recital Hall four Taylor upperclassmen spoke on how experiences in off-campus programs changed their perspectives on their faith, their view of the world, and their views of themselves.

The speakers were Susan Smartt, Allen Briggs, Loretta Gorevin, and Scott Aronson. The Leadership Development

Cabinet in TSO organized the evening as part of its monthly series on leadership this semester.

Attending these seminars fulfills one of the requirements of the new Leadership Initiative at Taylor program available to all Taylor Students, including upperclassmen. Students who complete any level of the LIT program will receive a supplement to their diploma that can

further boost a resume, giving formal recognition of the students' involvement in areas other than academics.

By spring semester, most students are involved in so many activities that they are hesitant to make another commitment. However, it is likely that they already meet most of the program's requirements. There are three major aspects of the LIT: leadership involvement, com-

munity service, and leadership training. Any student involved in some type of leadership, such as being a member of a cabinet or leading a small group is eligible. The other requirements include doing community service, taking the one-hour leadership class taught over J-term or spring semester and attending the Monday night leadership training seminars.

The program is designed to acknowledge the efforts most Taylor students already make in developing their ability to lead and impact their community. Those interested in the LIT program should e-mail leadership@tayloru.edu or stop by the Leadership Development office in TSO for lists of LIT requirements and seminar dates and topics this semester.

Bean

♦World Alliance Coffees buys campus coffee house

From page 1

biscotti, muffins, scones and brownies.

"They're all baked fresh with no preservatives," Martinez said. "Highest quality you can get."

One addition to the drink list is Bubble Tea, a frozen drink of fruit and tea from Taiwan, Martinez said. The "bubbles" are large tapioca pearls at the bottom of the glass that can be chewed while one drinks.

AWC expanded the smoothie selection by offering Exotic Islands blends.

"It's actually, like, boiled down, pure fruit with no preservatives," Martinez said. "It makes a fantastic smoothie."

While student favorites are still available at the Bean, some alterations have been made. For instance, the Bean's mocha blends now use Ghirardelli chocolate, according to Martinez.

AWC wants to make some changes to the overall look of the Bean as well.

"In the future, we're hoping to change a few more things, but we're having to get those approved by Taylor first," Martinez said. "We're hoping through the course of this semester [and during the summer] to do some renovations,

and hopefully reopen in the fall and have a new-looking Jumping Bean."

AWC started in 2000 when MAC Pastor Guy Fanz decided to start an internship program to train young people for ministry, Martinez said. The church didn't have the funds on its own to support such a program, so Fanz envisioned a coffee roasting business to back the internship.

In Martinez's words, Fanz prayed, "God, if you're going to do this then you're going to have to supply a house for them to live in and supply money to buy a roaster." In a few months, the church received a house and an anonymous donation of \$15,000, which enabled them to buy a roaster. The Midwest District for the Christian Missionary Alliance gave MAC the house in support of the proposed program. MAC currently has 17 interns, and AWC supports over half of them, Martinez said.

The MAC intern program and AWC have several connections to Taylor already. Their first intern was Taylor graduate Josh Sandoz. Another Taylor alumnus, Drew Billups, is an award-winning roaster who oversees the internship and business with Martinez. The Bean's new manager, Luke Abernathy, also graduated from Taylor.

The Dillers trust AWC to take care of the Bean, but will never forget the service they provided the Taylor community since 2000.

"We had a great time just working there," Jeremy Diller said. "I mean we really enjoyed it."

Tuition

♦Rates continue to rise for 2004-2005

From page 1

encourage racial and socio-economic diversity. The church-matching grant exists to encourage students to become involved in their local church.

"The scholarships bring in

smart and diverse students that result in a better community," Nace said.

Some students are concerned about the increase.

"For freshmen it's scary because if they keep doing this each year it's a lot of money, and who knows where it's going to come from?" freshman Theresa Henderson said.

"I definitely understand that they have to raise the cost, but it would be nice to know where the money is going," senior David O'Neill said. "There are

New Jumping Bean hours

Monday-Thursday
7:30 a.m.- 2 p.m.
5 p.m.- 12 a.m.
Friday
7:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Saturday
Closed
Sunday
8 p.m. - 12 a.m.

ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE to utilize your writing and management skills by applying for the position of Echo or Ilium editor. Applications for these paid 2004-2005 positions are available in the CA Department Office. Print media applicants will be interviewed before spring break; audio and video media supervisors will be hired after spring break. For further information call Carol Owen at 85255.

some things on campus that cost a lot that aren't being used, like the plasma screen in the communications building. Small things like that are wastes of money."

Federal grants that are awarded based on the Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) are unrelated to current tuition prices and will remain static. Also, wages for work-study will not increase with tuition because work-study wages are set by the minimum wage law.

ATTENTION CAMPUS LEADERS: Do you want a group photo of your organization in the yearbook? Organization Picture Day is Tuesday, April 20. Sign up for a time outside Rupp's Journalism Quadrant. Have questions? E-mail Megan Elder @tayloru.edu.

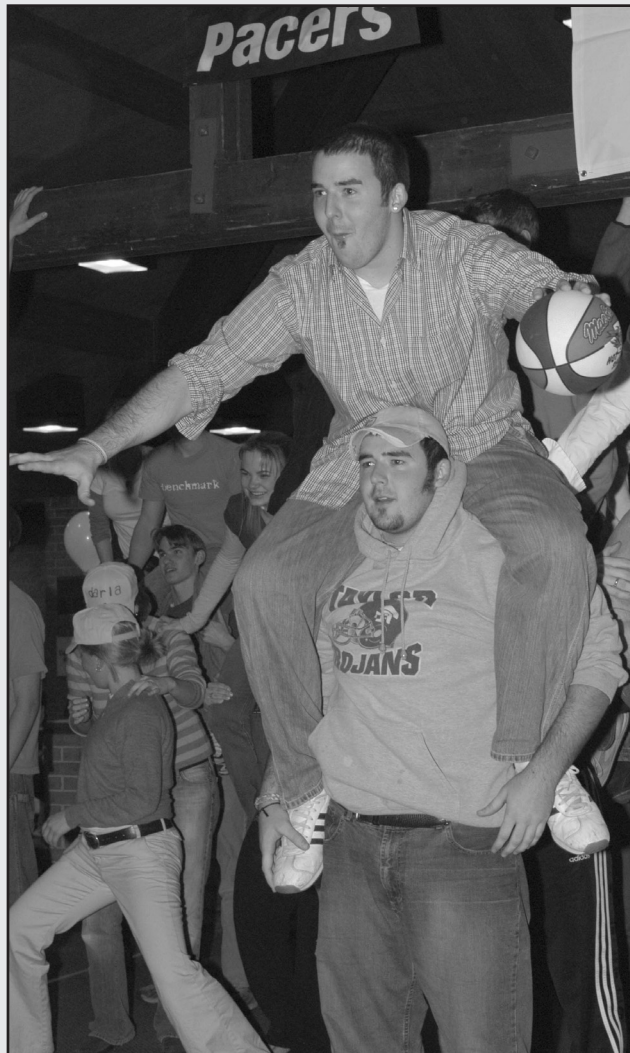


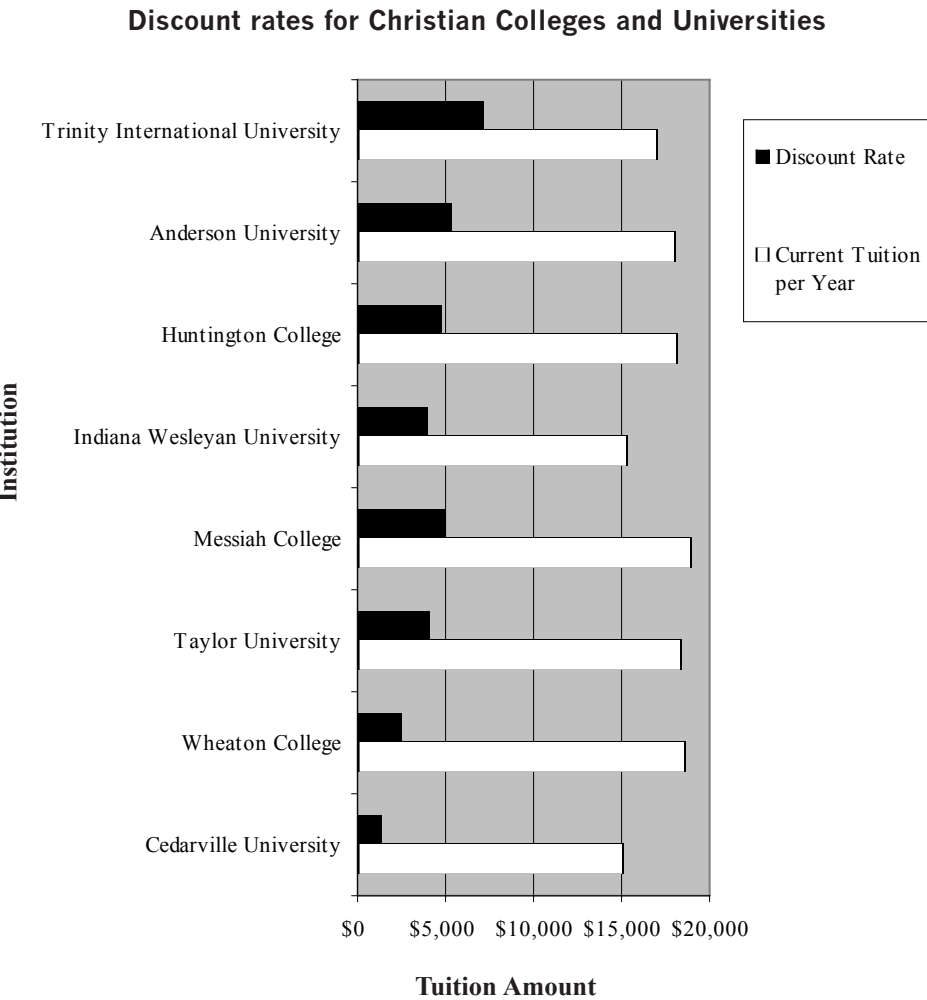
Photo by Megan Elder

Pepsi Night scores big

Twin roommates juniors Eric and Brett Shafer vie for a chance to win Pacers tickets Tuesday night at the annual Pepsi Pacers Challenge in the DC. The Shafers won the tickets for making a basket from atop one another's shoulders. Other prizes included mini-refrigerators, camp chairs, Pepsi products and an X-Box. To get into the game spirit, the DC served nachos, cotton candy, pizza, peanuts, walking tacos and other concession stand foods. Indianapolis weatherman Chuck Lofton hosted the event.

A comparison of discount rates

One component of the tuition equation is the **discount rate**. A discount rate is a percentage of tuition revenues that comes back to students in the form of merit-based scholarships and grants. How does Taylor compare to other Christian institutions in the common practice of overcharging tuition to allow some students to have scholarships?



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Photo by Matt Wissman

Senior Melissa Woodrum and Gerig Hall director Caryn Grimstead enjoy each other's company at the Taylor Family Dinner on Monday evening. The event has been reinstated by administrators after after being discontinued in 2000.

Taylor Family Dinners return after 3 years

BY RACHEL ELWOOD
STAFF WRITER

One of the best aspects of attending Taylor is the positive relationships students can have with faculty and staff. To encourage such relationships, Dean of Students, Walt Campbell and Vice President for Student Affairs Wynn Lembright, with others in the student affairs department,

reinstated a tradition called Taylor Family Dinners. For the dinner, faculty and staff invite student friends or acquaintances to enjoy a family-style meal together. The first family dinner was held on Monday, in the Dining Commons banquet facilities. Campbell began the evening with a short introduction and explanation of the event. "There is no program, no agenda," he said. Campbell then encouraged the students, faculty and

staff to "give thanks, and enjoy the meal and fellowship." To conclude the meal, the group sang the Doxology together. "My wife Mary and I thoroughly enjoy meeting students for dinner and find it a great way to meet new students, cultivate friendships, befriend and encourage students in their time at Taylor," Campbell said. "I enjoyed eating and talking, and it was a really good time," junior Heather James said.

At the beginning of the semester faculty and staff received an invitation to host a table at the dinners, according to Campbell. The hosts invite six students to join them "for a quiet dinner with no program but just a time to get to know each other," Campbell said. Three more family dinners are planned for this semester. Taylor family dinners were started in the mid 1990's and stopped in 2000.

Ziegler sacrifices sleep, family for play

BY ERIK KIELISCH
STAFF WRITER

It's down to the final days before opening night, and Tim Ziegler, theater technical director, has barely slept. To cast and crew alike, this week is affectionately known as "Hell Week," and the theater workshop shows it. It's a war zone of paint, foam, wood, tools and various other materials as finishing touches are hurriedly applied to the set. "[Hell week] is hard on my family, especially my daughter," Ziegler said as he adjusted the trim on a stage building. "She asked me today, 'Are you coming home today daddy?'" It's hard to say "no," Ziegler said. Donuts, prayer and enhanced vitamin water carry him through the day. "God blessed me with the ability to function on two to three hours sleep a night," Ziegler said.

"I'm looking forward to the summer so I can spend more time with my wife and daughter." After Cory Rodeheaver left the position last school year, Taylor asked Ziegler to fill the spot. It's his first year on the job, and his first position at a university. "They're big shoes to fill," Ziegler said of replacing Rodeheaver. Besides being the theater technical director, he's also the campus' sound supervisor and an adjunct professor teaching public speaking and an independent study on stagecraft and set design.

After graduating from Taylor in '92 with a communication education degree, Ziegler and his wife Cheryl took a year to travel through 36 states, presenting multimedia shows at public high schools with the Christian organization C A M F E L (C a m p u s F e l l o w s h i p). The shows promoted positive values such as "don't do drugs," because the schools did not

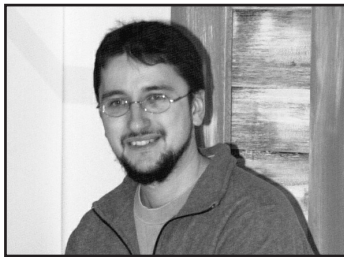


Photo by Ashley Smith

Tim Ziegler, Taylor's theater technical director.

The six stages of set building:

- ♦ Design
- ♦ Set ground plan
- ♦ Build supporting structure
- ♦ Construct walls
- ♦ Paint and make scenery
- ♦ Apply the finishing touches

allow the Zieglers to present the gospel message.

Afterwards, Ziegler became a drama and media teacher and athletics director at South Haven Christian School in Valparaiso, Indiana.

In the eight years he taught there, he helped construct sets for the school's performances.

"I enjoy the creative element of it," Ziegler said while cutting foam trim that squeaked under the blade of his utility knife.

Dr. Ollie Hubbard designs the sets and Ziegler puts them together.

After receiving the designs, it takes roughly six weeks to prepare the set. About forty volunteers put in 80-100 hours of work on the set, and often the cast will help with the set.

Ziegler said he loves set construction.

"It's like life," Ziegler said. "As people we put on faces and may be completely different underneath. The outsides of the stage buildings look like real buildings, but inside, they are not."

Roberts shows strength after crash

BY ASHLEY SMITH
STAFF WRITER

A loud crash. Glass shattering. The smell of burning rubber. Difficulty breathing. Overbearing pain. Confusion.

The rainy night of Oct. 26, 2003, changed freshman Paula Roberts for the rest of her life.

The night began uneventfully. Like most Taylor students, Roberts, Kari VanderWiele, and Sarah Leonard were coming back to Taylor after fall break. However, their night took an unexpected turn.

The women were traveling down Interstate 80 when a car in front of them swerved into their lane to avoid a disabled semi-truck. The women rear-ended the car, and two other vehicles, including a semi-truck, hit their car.

"Everything was just a mess. I had no clue where I was or what was going on," Roberts said. "The car just kept moving and I couldn't figure out where the car was or what direction we were facing."

The windows broke and covered the women in glass. The car was totaled, but they were alive.

"If one of the hits had been 15 inches to either side, more than likely one of us would have been killed," Roberts said.

The paramedics spent almost two hours cutting the women out. VanderWiele and Leonard went to a small local hospital. An ambulance took Roberts, who was the most seriously injured, 100 miles to Pittsburgh for medical attention.

"They wouldn't let anyone come with me," Roberts said. "I was freaking out. I was having anxiety attacks and convulsions the whole time."

When Roberts arrived at the hospital, she learned she had

suffered severe trauma to her back and received nerve damage to her left leg. Two days later the doctors informed her she had broken her back.

In a six-hour surgery, the doctors placed a plate and four screws in her back. Roberts spent five days in the hospital.

She began to experience symptoms of what most psychologists would call a Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. According to Ronald Comer, author of *Abnormal Psychology*, PTSD is "an anxiety disorder in which fear and related symptoms continue to be experienced long after a traumatic event."

Not long after the accident, Roberts experienced disturbing flashbacks.

"One minute I would be happy and laughing, and then my family would leave the room for two minutes, and I would just start sobbing," Roberts said.

She also suffered from short-term memory loss.

"I would have to get up and tell my mom what I was doing. 'Mom, I'm going to the bathroom,'" Roberts said. "I'd take three steps and I'd have to ask my mom what I was doing. She would have to tell me what I was doing three times before I got to the bathroom."

Still recovering, Roberts returned to Taylor before Thanksgiving break.

"Being back here has helped so much just because of the atmosphere and how everyone has helped me and has encouraged me. It's good to be back," Roberts said.

Roberts is currently wearing a brace to stabilize her back while she continues to heal. Her hope is that in three weeks the brace will come off.

"I have a whole list of what to do: I want to take a bath, I want to curl up and watch a movie, and I want to slouch!"



Photo by Megan Elder

Freshman Paula Roberts enjoys Dr. G's Fandango only a month after her intense back surgery.

SENIOR ART EXHIBITS



Photos by Matt Wissman

Latoya Webb — "Percy L. Julian," is one of the many pieces from Webb's exhibit entitled "More than Tolerance."



Emily Toher — "Leaf across Fingers," comprised of wax, plaster, plastic and a leaf from her exhibit entitled "A Living."

“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched — they must be felt with the heart.”
-Hellen Keller

Editorials

Missing true meaning of ‘The Passion’

Our position:
Some Jewish groups misunderstand the significance of their ancestors’ role in Christ’s death.

Mel Gibson's The Passion of the Christ has not been officially released to theaters and yet the film has sparked more controversy than all of the Jacksons put together. Gibson has continually said the film is meant to be the most accurate portrayal of the last twelve hours of Christ's life possible. However, the actor-producer recently told media he will omit a certain scene of the film argued by Jewish groups to be anti-Semitic. The scene is the one in which Chief Priest Caiaphas says, in reference to Jesus' crucifixion, "His blood be on us and our children."

One group, the Anti-Defamation League, has said the film portrays Jews as a "mob," "the ones responsible for the decision to crucify Christ," and "blood-thirsty, sadistic and money-hungry enemies of God who lack compassion and humanity."

It's unfortunate Gibson has had to compromise his honorable goal of making an accurate film about Christ's death. It's even more unfortunate these groups miss the importance of their role in Christ's death. If Christ's blood had not been "on them and their children," we would have no forgiveness of sin. The words they consider a curse, we consider a blessing. May Christ's blood be on us all.

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Letter to the Editor

Christians should be environmentalists

What is an Environmentalist? Is it some sort of left-wing, pot smoking, tree hugging, SUV-hating wacko? No. In fact, I propose that Christians who take their faith seriously should inherently be environmentalists.

"The Earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein" (Ps. 24:1). God went to extraordinary measures to create a world that is intricate and beautiful. He cares for all of His creation, not just humans. A father giving his son or daughter a car can be an example of love. How disrespectful is it if the child destroys the car because the father will give him another when it breaks down? This attitude is absurd and extremely irresponsible. Is it not glorifying to God when we take care of His creation? "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and keep it" (Gen. 2:15). We are to be stewards of creation, not just use it for our selfish purposes.

The environment has been so severely polluted that the Cuyahoga River, flowing through Cleveland, Ohio, actually caught fire in June of 1969. This is not protecting and caring for the earth or other human beings.

Consequently, Christians should be aware of the environmental impacts of their lifestyle. It is not limited to glorifying God by properly managing His creation, it is also about thinking locally and globally. The United States uses 25 percent of the world's resources, even though we are only five percent of the world's population. Is taking necessities away from others living out Jesus' command to "love your neighbors as yourself"?

While it is clear that all energy sources have negative environmental impacts, a consistent Christian environmental ethic entails supporting and using feasible renewable alternative energy sources whenever possible. Yes, there are extremist groups that will oppose every new source of energy while still objecting to current energy sources, but to say all environmentally conscious persons are fanatics is a stereotype.

Limiting our use of detrimental forms of energy such as coal, petroleum, and nuclear energy can only benefit humanity. Thus, by being environmentally responsible we are not simply honoring God, but helping to ensure a quality of life for future generations. As a Christian we need to be an active force for responsible stewardship of the environment. To learn more about how to care for one of God's greatest gifts, look for upcoming information concerning Stewards of Creation.

By Kory Russel, Alexis Cole, Aaron Diehl, Erin Hall and Julia Angstmann

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor must be received by **6 p.m. on Wednesday** and be **425 words or less** in order to be published in the coming Friday's issue. Letters should include daytime telephone and signature. You can write us off-campus at: The Echo, Taylor University, 236 W. Reade Ave., Upland, IN 46989-1001. On-campus at: The Echo, Rupp Communications Building, or via e-mail: echo@tayloru.edu.

The opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor do not necessarily represent The Echo or its staff or Taylor University.

A prayer life lost, then found



By Mike Row
GUEST COLUMNIST

I have a confession to make. During my youth, I trivialized prayer. On second thought, "underestimated" is probably a better descriptor of much of my past record of petitioning God.

As a Taylor University student way back in the 20th century (Yes, we had cars and telephones back then), I had the opportunity to listen to many inspirational chapel speakers who encouraged me to expand my spiritual horizons through prayer. Unfortunately, I didn't heed their advice. Instead, I allowed the frivolities of the time to distract me.

While we didn't have Oprah or Survivor in those days, we did have the Gong Show and bell-bottoms. Which leads one to believe that students and their parents have more in common than they think. After all, both generations have been confronted with the challenge of overcoming stupid television shows and ugly clothing. But at least the leisure suit hasn't made a comeback. Yet...

As I grew in age and stature, my spiritual development was not keeping up with either. But what did I have to worry about? I was getting a great education, rubbing elbows with the future elites of my generation, and I was going to marry the girl of my dreams. God was obviously pleased with me, or He would let me know by ruining my life, wouldn't he?

Then, after I had married the girl of my dreams, things got a little complicated. My problems, which had previously been limited to worrying about whether or not my team would win the intramural basketball championship and choosing the most palatable entrée at the Dining Commons, increased exponentially.

I now had another person that

I had to fret about. And I began to petition God in my own immature little way to protect her as the girl of my dreams made a daily 1 1/2-hour trek to and from work. But the lack of a prayerful foundation in my life left me in a constant state of nervousness.

Just as I was getting comfortable with the plethora of safety issues concerning my wife, two additions to my family arrived three years apart. One named Sean and one named Seth. Now, having children was a whole new ballgame and I soon discovered that the challenge of raising my sons without a mature prayer life was like trying to hit a Kerry Wood fastball without a bat.

My sons motivated me to get more serious about prayer, so I would get up with the chickens several times a week, read a little Scripture and spend a few minutes in prayer before I went off to work. Though there was no chance of me being mistaken for Billy Graham, it was a start.

The years that followed were a blur. I was consumed with arranging for childcare, changing diapers, work, figuring out how I could afford to pay bills and taxes, trips to the store to buy food and shoes for my two growing boys, community service, etc. But amidst the hustle-bustle of my increasing-

Body image week provides help



By Kira Olson
GUEST COLUMNIST

That's all for today. Finally, the words fall from the professor's lips, announcing the end of class. Seeking to satisfy an unhappy, rumbling stomach, you hurry to the DC for lunch. Chicken wraps! You grab two wraps from the specialty bar, fries, and a favorite dessert: caramel apple pie. Sitting down, you notice your friends aren't as thrilled about the food as you. One eats her usual, a salad, while a girl nearby nibbles on a piece of celery.

"Am I eating too much?" you wonder. Few are aware of the many people around them who struggle with eating-related anxieties. In a world increasingly consumed by image, it's easy to become preoccupied with appearance and lose focus on what's important in life. I, myself, struggled with this problem for about two years in high school, when I began searching for acceptance in the world's eyes instead of placing my identity in Christ. I felt stressed from school and activities, depressed by broken friendships, and hopelessly alone. Searching to dull these feelings and to manage an ever-changing life, I deprived myself of certain foods, never expecting what happened next.

Soon the original sense of control and balance became an illusion as anorexia overtook me. My mind was plagued by voices screaming lies from every direction. I became a puppet with no authority over my own body and no ability to distinguish Christ's voice over the others. Although I tried eat-

ing at times and desperately wanted help, the eating disorder was too powerful; in fact, I believed it too strong for even God to conquer. Hatred and disappointment developed within me for the pain I was causing friends and family, and frequently, I contemplated ending all the hurt and difficulty.

When my parents first mentioned a treatment center, I was filled with mixed feelings: anger, fear, and even relief. The timing couldn't have been more perfect: I entered the program literally on my deathbed, told by doctors that it would be nearly impossible to ingest all the necessary nourishment without a feeding tube. However, God gave me the stubbornness and determination to work toward recovery.

After three months of intensive therapy and tears, I returned home equipped with tools useful in dealing with life. Although the road to recovery would be long and challenging, I recognized an almighty God on my side who had kept my brain functioning when physically impossible, provided finances for treatment, and spared my very life. Over time, He has restored my personality

ly complicated life, I somehow managed to spend increasing amounts of time in prayer.

Then, within the span of a couple of years, the girl of my dreams suffered from some serious medical complications, my father was diagnosed with cancer and died before he turned 60 years old, I was informed that I might have lung cancer, my sister suffered from devastating personal problems, numerous friends were struggling with divorce and terminal illness, and my mother nearly died in surgery.

During this period, my approach to prayer has gone from casually bowing my head, to kneeling, to falling facedown on the ground, as I pleaded with God to intervene in these matters. In the process, God's unlimited grace has been revealed to me and a peace that surpasses all understanding has engulfed me.

I don't suppose the lackadaisical approach to prayer that I displayed in my youth applies to the average Taylor student. But perhaps there are a few students who think — like I did — that the serious pursuit of prayer isn't worth their time.

If this is the case, then I would like to share this simple, yet important advice with those students: Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Romans 12:12 (NIV)

Thanks be to God for the faithful in our community, who labor in anonymity, so that others might be blessed! May the Lord continue to reward your investment with eternal dividends!

Michael E. Row is the director of campus safety, assistant professor at Taylor University-Upland. He is also a freelance writer and dabbles in politics from time to time.

Letter to the Editor

Body image awareness week may cause problems

While many students on campus are interested in or even excited about Body Image Awareness Week, many others look forward to it with apprehension. Why? These students struggle or have struggled with one of the main focuses of the week: eating disorders.

For students who have suffered from an eating disorder, the intense, week-long focus on body image can cause more problems than it dispels. Consistent reminders, even if they are presented with good intentions, can only bring the problem to the surface, making it difficult to move on. To be reminded of body image regularly, even if the reminding is done with good intentions, is the last thing a recovering anorexic or bulimic needs.

Obviously, the intent behind body week is not to promote or condone eating disorders. It is to educate students about body image problems and help refocus the Taylor community on what is truly important: a self-love and fulfillment that can only be found in a deep relationship with Jesus Christ. However, it is our opinion that the format of body week should be seriously evaluated for its effect on students. If a significant portion of the students on campus is adversely affected by this week, action needs to be taken.

Perhaps it would be beneficial for the body week committee to send out student surveys after the week to collect students' opinions. An event such as this should not be set up blindly but should be done with as much information as possible.

Understand that our objective is not to have the week banished from Taylor's event schedule. Body image is an important issue that needs to be addressed. Ignorance and apathy are the keys to allowing these diseases to infect more of our community. However, reevaluation and reorganization of the week may be necessary to make it less harmful to those who are currently struggling or have struggled with eating disorders in the past.

By Kristen Favazza and Lauren Myers

VOTE!
SBP primaries
on Feb. 24 in
the DC

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Taylor University

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The mission of *The Echo* is to fairly and without bias represent the views of diverse voices on Taylor University's campus and to be a vehicle of accurate and pertinent information to the student body, faculty and staff. *The Echo* also aims to be a forum that fosters healthy discussion about relevant issues, acting as a catalyst for change on our campus.

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“There is nothing more touching to me than a family picture where everyone is trying to look his or her best, but you can see what a mess they all really are.”

-Anne Lamott, “Traveling Mercies”

Taylor’s funny, ‘Fool’-ish fable

BY MEAGAN SMIGELSKY
STAFF WRITER

Two hundred years ago, a curse was put on this village that struck every man, woman, child and domesticated animal, including all their ancestors for generations to come, leaving each and every one of them—and this you'll find hard to believe—with no more intelligence than a bump on a log."

Does this sound like someplace you've been? Of course, Taylor University could never be considered a community of fools...or could it?

Dr. Ollie Hubbard describes the play *Fools* by Neil Simon as a comic fable, "Fiddler on the Roof meets vaudeville."

"It's a comedy," Professor Jan Pletcher said, who is the director of this production. "It's slapstick. But because it is a fable, there is a moral to the story."

What could be the moral of a story in a village of fools? The play *Fools*, Taylor Theatre's early spring production, opens in the village of Kulyenchikov, a tiny Russian town. All of the people in this town are cursed with complete stupidity. Everything they do is somehow backwards but they go merrily about their lives knowing somehow, oddly enough, they are completely ignorant.

One day, a schoolmaster named Leon Tolchinsky (played by freshman David Phillips), comes to the little village in response to an advertisement for a teacher. As he is greeted by the townspeople, he begins to realize that something



Photo by Matt Wissman

Mrs. Zubritsky (Annie Calhoun, left), Dr. Zubritsky (Matt Hoppe) and Tolchinsky (David Phillips) star in *Fools*, Taylor's current theater production which opens tonight in Mitchell Theatre. In a rehearsal Thursday night, Hoppe and Calhoun try to understand with ignorant minds.

is amiss. Upon reaching the home of Dr. and Mrs. Zubritsky (played by senior Matt Hoppe and junior Annie Calhoun), he falls in love at first sight with their beautiful daughter Sophia

(played by junior Heidi Burkey), who is to be his pupil. Tolchinsky has one day to break the curse of foolishness that is on the village of Kulyenchikov. If he's success-

ful, he'll be together forever with his love Sophia and the town's curse of stupidity will be broken. If he's unsuccessful, he too will fall under the curse of foolishness and will never be

able to communicate his love to Sophia.

So, Tolchinsky attempts to deliver the town from its incompetence by educating Sophia. She can easily recite

back to him, "One plus one is two," but it means nothing to her. She's bewildered by his questions so she asks him one of her own, only to be silenced. In order for her to become intelligent, Tolchinsky is sure Sophia must learn the lessons he has come to teach her. What he fails to consider is that the lessons Sophia teaches him in her ignorance might be more valuable than those he wishes to teach her in his brilliance.

A special feature in this theater production is the musical score composed and produced by senior Dave Turner. Turner also created the score last year for Taylor's production of *Arsenic and Old Lace* and other musical compositions.

Turner's inspiration for the score came from three word-pictures: Russian, fairytale village and stupid.

"It is sort of 'Hansel and Gretel' meets 'Dr. Zhivago' meets John Phillips Sousa," Turner said. The music features a penny whistle, the accordion and clarinet played by Doug Harbin, and the balalaika played by Steve Jones. Turner describes the balalaika as a triangular-shaped Russian banjo that gives distinctly Russian sound to the music.

Fools opens tonight in Taylor's Mitchell Theatre with four other performances on Feb. 21, 26, 27 and 28 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$6 with a Taylor student ID in the Communication Arts Office.

Fools' cast member Kevin Dufendach said, "The only reason someone would not come to see this show is ignorance!"

Gibson's 'Passion' is ruthlessly unnerving

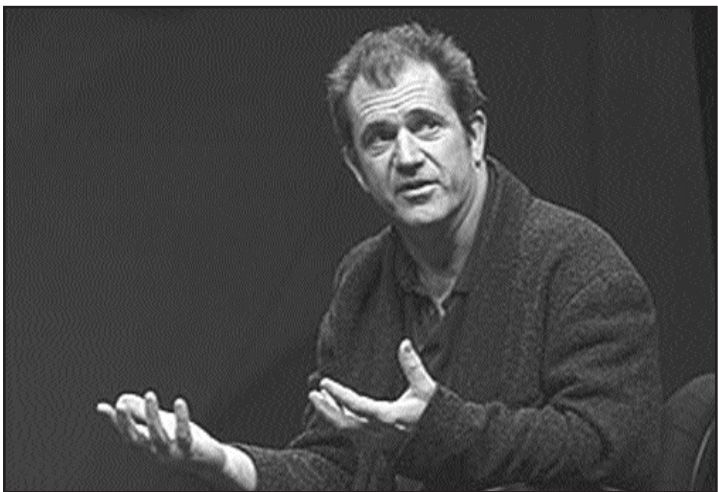
BY NEVILLE KISER
A & E EDITOR

On Tuesday, Jan. 20, I was given the opportunity to view Mel Gibson's new film *The Passion of the Christ* at Willow Creek Community Church, located in the suburbs outside Chicago. With nearly 4,500 evangelical pastors present, I sat with my father, pastor of my home church back in Michigan, and experienced Mel Gibson's vision of Jesus' gruesome last 12 hours of life. Throughout this devastating and spiritually draining film, there were two scenes in particular (which I'd rather not explain in detail) that will stay with me forever. However, instead of reviewing the film, I'd rather give insight into some of Gibson's words to us—the audience—after the screening.

When the film ended, there was an uncomfortableness that spread immediately throughout Willow Creek's sanctuary. Moments passed, and still not one person spoke. Some took off their glasses and rubbed their eyes in disbelief. Others stared blankly as if mesmerized. It was an extremely odd silence: the kind you felt as a child when you had disobeyed your parents and it was time for their official "punishment sentence."

A few minutes later, Bill Hybels, senior pastor of Willow Creek, took the stage.

"Whenever there's a strong work of God, you can always trace it back to a leader, somebody who got an idea, pursued it, paid the price when things got hard," Hybels said. "With this movie, that leader was Mel Gibson." The audience applauded as Hybels intro-



Photos courtesy of willowcreek.org

Top: Bill Hybels and Mel Gibson discuss *The Passion of the Christ* in front of thousands of pastors. **Bottom:** Mel Gibson explains his reasons for making the film and how it took so much out of him emotionally.

duced Mel Gibson. As soon as Gibson came into sight on the stage, the crowd members rose to their feet, giving him a standing ovation. Gibson, who was waving his hands fervently as if to say, "this is too much," looked as nervous as ever. After he and Hybels took their seats on stage, the audience's applause gradually died down.

Hybels complimented Gibson's dedication in making the film, and then asked about his faith. Most were familiar with his strong Catholic background, but wondered what he actually believed. When did his faith turn from mere belief into part of his everyday life?

"It's not that I didn't believe," Gibson said. "I always prayed. But if you neglect something like that [prayer], your life quickly falls into chaos, and that's what happened to me."

Hybels pushed further. He wanted to know if there was a specific incident that made Gibson rethink his beliefs. To this, Gibson responded haphazardly.

"Pain, of course," Gibson replied. "You have to have pain, or you don't make the effort. You can be spiritually bankrupt when you appear to have so much. Sooner or later, you start hitting yourself on the head, and you move on. I started praying a lot. I'm still not good at it. I'm not a Holy Joe. I just work at it and keep moving on."

For the past 12 years, Gibson has been working on the film. He started by writing the screenplay, which was translated into Latin, Hebrew and Aramaic for the actors to learn the script.

"I believe I was faithful to the Gospels," Gibson said. "But I was able to use my imagination somewhat."

While Gibson clearly took freedom in using his "imagination," he also made sure that his film was proclaiming one truth: that Jesus Christ is the only way to everlasting life.

"Won't people say you're being intolerant by including that line [Jesus' words quoted in John 14:6 as 'I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me.' KJV]?" Hybels asked.

"No, it's not intolerant," Gibson replied. He then explained how Christ's sacrifice is for everyone and not just a tolerated few. This comment lead into questions regarding whether or not everyone should see the film. Due to the film's pervasive, brutal torture scenes, Hybels wanted to hear Gibson's response to those who felt the film capitalized on gratuitous violence. Did *The Passion of the Christ* need to be rated R? Many people who have seen it claim the violence is sensationalistic and goes completely over the top.

"It deserves the R-rating," Gibson said. "I wouldn't recommend anyone under 13 see it. I intended to push it [the violence] over the edge. There is no remission of sins without the shedding of blood. Lots of blood was required for this. I wanted to show the blood sacrifice, every single drop of it. Jesus didn't just choose to prick a finger for the blood sacrifice, though I'm sure he could have. He went all the way."

In response to this comment, the audience erupted in thunderous applause, to which Gibson shook his head in disagreement, and meekly replied, "I'm not the hero in this. Jesus Christ is."

While he may not be a hero in Hollywood after the film's release—especially after last Monday's interview with Diane Sawyer on ABC—he may lose his career and Hollywood friends because of his decision to make this film—Gibson claims to have no regrets.

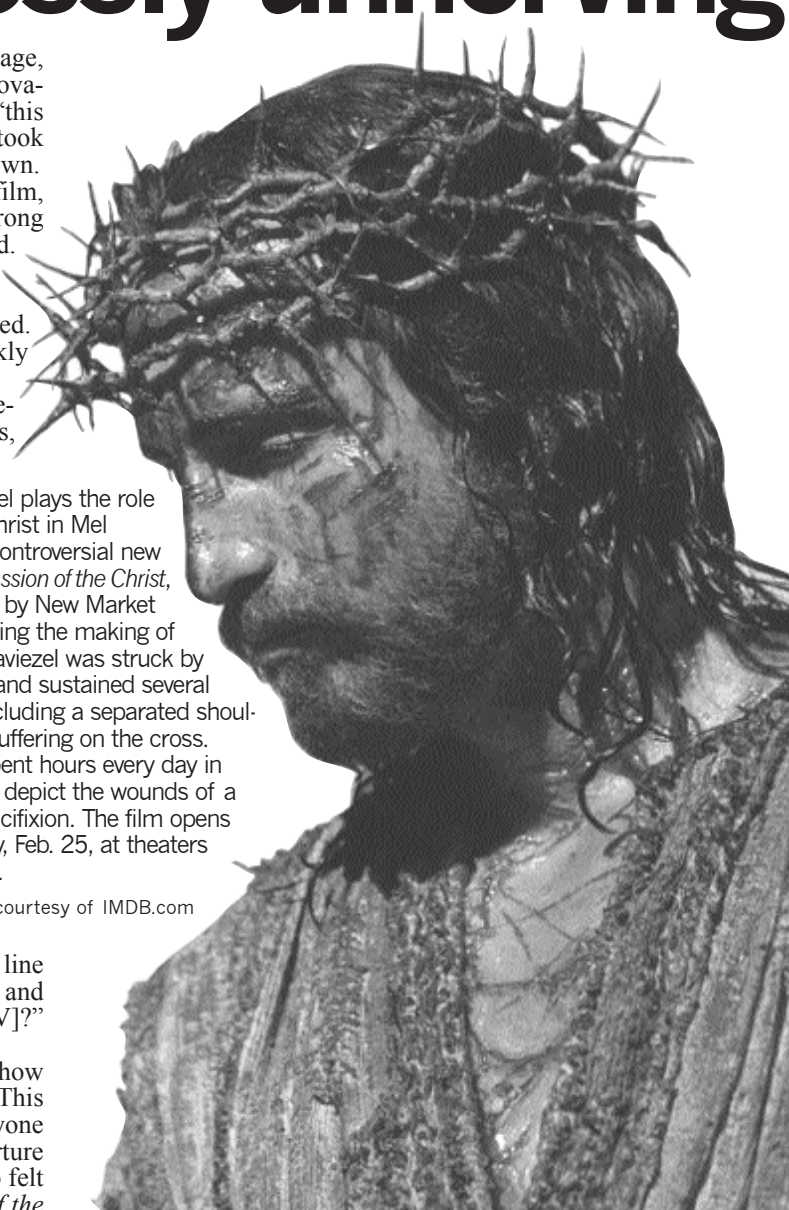
"Are you nervous?" Hybels asked.

"Absolutely," Gibson replied. "It's like putting your child out there, sending him off to the first day of kindergarten and worrying that he'll get hit by a bus. Will it be savaged by critics? Yes it will. But I had to do this." Many of his close friends have warned him of the dangers that come with making the film. They believe Gibson is committing social suicide, and claim he'll lose everything.

"It will cost me everything," Gibson said. "But you know, I've

Jim Caviezel plays the role of Jesus Christ in Mel Gibson's controversial new film *The Passion of the Christ*, distributed by New Market Films. During the making of the film, Caviezel was struck by lightning and sustained several injuries, including a separated shoulder while suffering on the cross. Caviezel spent hours every day in makeup to depict the wounds of a Roman crucifixion. The film opens Wednesday, Feb. 25, at theaters nationwide.

Photo courtesy of IMDB.com



had my career as a 'movie star,' and I'm bored with it. I thought, 'Hey, there's other things.' I've enjoyed doing the other stuff in my career, but it doesn't have the same importance it once did for me. In those days, I was very interested in creating a secular utopia for myself, but it's almost like worship of self and that's not a good road to be on."

Later, Gibson discussed reactions from people who've seen the film, and said hearing personal responses has made producing the film even more rewarding. In recalling one young college woman who saw the film, Gibson explained how she came to him at the end of the screening with tears in her eyes.

Gibson remembers her haunting words: "She said, 'I'm sorry...I forgot.'" This has stayed with Gibson, and reaffirmed his belief that some people just need to be reminded of the true Jesus they so avidly profess. They need to stop, look, and reflect. Hopefully, this film will do this for many.

"I'm a lucky fellow," Gibson admitted. "I have a great wife and kids [7 of them], and I don't deserve it. I've been married 24 years. It's been a real interesting ride, but it just keeps getting better."

"With this movie, I didn't try to make a religious film," he added, pointing to his heart. "I just tried to make something that was real to me."

Next Wednesday, Feb. 25 (Ash Wednesday), *The Passion of the Christ* will hit theaters. Hopefully, Gibson's humble faith in God combined with the film's bold, brutal message will remind the world of Christ's love for all mankind.



Senior Alicia Russell prepares to shoot a foul shot in a game last week. Taylor plays at Grace tomorrow at 1 p.m.

Lady Trojans upset Ind. Wesleyan

By KATIE SHEDD
STAFF WRITER

The Taylor women's basketball team, currently tied for third place in the Mid-Central Conference, split its two games this week with a win over Indiana Wesleyan and a loss to Huntington College.

Offense was the name of the game as the Lady Trojans downed 22nd ranked Indiana Wesleyan for the second time this season.

Taylor shot 54.8 percent from the field and 50 percent from behind the arc. The Trojans also went to the free-throw line

39 times and connected on 34.

The Lady Trojans jumped ahead early in the game to a 15-4 lead. They went into the locker room at the half with a comfortable 14-point lead, 47-33. However, IWU battled back in the second stanza.

The Wildcats went on a 14-2 run to pull the game within two points with 8:53 left on the clock. Taylor answered with a 12-2 run of its own. As time ticked away, IWU was forced to foul. Taylor then sealed its victory, hitting six free throws down the stretch.

Liz Plass led the Lady Trojans with a game high 38 points,

going 18-19 from the charity stripe. Melanie Brumbaugh and Alicia Russell each added 12 points and grabbed seven and nine rebounds, respectively. Jenny Dawes connected for 11 points as well.

Unfortunately, Taylor's offensive dominance did not carry over into Wednesday night's game against Huntington. The Foresters topped the Trojans 64-55 on senior night, Taylor's final regular season home game of the year.

The Lady Trojans struggled while connecting on only 31.1 percent of their shots from the field and 12.5 percent from

behind the three-point line.

Huntington shot 46.9 percent from the field and drilled 61.5 percent from three-point land.

Brumbaugh led the Lady Trojans with 21 points and nine rebounds. Russell recorded a double-double with 15 points and 14 rebounds. Plass finished with 12 points and five rebounds.

Taylor will travel to Grace College tomorrow for its final regular season game at 1 p.m. The conference tournament will begin on Tuesday. A win tomorrow would give Taylor home court advantage for Tuesday's game.

Bell Tower



6'8" Sophomore Doug Bell towers above the competition as the Trojans' starting center

By MEGHANN OLSON
STAFF WRITER

Just as the saying goes, 'If you can't beat 'em, join 'em,' sophomore Doug Bell decided to transfer to Taylor this year after losing to the Trojans as a member of Walsh University's basketball team a year ago.

Bell is from Wadsworth, Ohio, where he was always one of the biggest in his grade. He and went to Wadsworth High School, where he focused on basketball, both for his high school and his AAU team, Team Ohio. His junior and senior years, he averaged 20 points and 10 rebounds per game, culminating in winning First Team All-State honors his senior year.

He was being heavily recruited by Division one schools Duquesne and Eastern Michigan, as well as a handful of Division two and three schools. However, he chose Walsh University because it was close to home and his best friend went there.

His freshman year, he was disappointed after only playing an average of four minutes per game, and he knew he could do better. Bell grew unhappy at Walsh, and heard about Taylor from Will McGinley's dad. He and Will had played against each other twice in high school and were teammates in an AAU tournament. He realized he could make a much better impact on the court as a Trojan, and could reach his full potential playing for Coach Patterson. After prayerful consideration, Bell transferred to Taylor.

Bell feels that the decision to transfer was one of the best he could have made.

"I have made such good friends, and am very happy playing for and impacting our basketball team here," Bell said.

Bell earned a starting spot, filling the hole left by Honorable Mention All-American Adam Musters. His impact has proven valuable for the Trojans, as he averages 13.5 points and 5.6 rebounds per game so far. He also ranks second in the Mid-Central Conference in field goal percentage, at 65 percent.

He has established himself as a fixture of Coach Patterson's frontcourt for years to come. Last week he was named conference Player of the Week after posting 23 points in a loss to Goshen, 30 points and 11 rebounds in a win over St. Francis and 21 points at Indiana Wesleyan.

Putting up big numbers and being a team leader is satisfying, but Doug's favorite part of playing for Taylor is the incredible fan support, which he said is unlike anything he's ever experienced before. One of his highlights of this season was scoring the 10th point in the infamous Silent Night game on December 12th, in which Taylor beat IU-Northwest 103-54.

"Hearing the fans go wild and then realizing I had just scored the 10th point was an awesome feeling," Doug said. "Those are the moments you play for. I love our fans."

"Our goal is to win the conference tournament and go to nationals," he said. "That's all that is on our minds right now."



Photo by Matt Wissman

WBAT shares special relationship with Taylor as platform for academic programs

By JUSTIN POTTS
SPORTS EDITOR

It's normal for a school to support athletics, but Taylor's athletic program has set up a way

to support the school's academic program.

The Marion radio station, WBAT-1400 AM teamed up with Taylor to broadcast football and men's basketball

games, as well as the women's basketball series with Indiana Wesleyan in 2000.

The unique thing about the relationship is that at halftime of the games, a different Taylor academic department is highlighted. Instead of telling scores or talking about other sports, broadcasters Tim George and Jim Brunner talk about each academic program at Taylor.

"We use this opportunity as a platform to tell the world about Taylor's academics," Taylor athletics director Dave Bireline said. "It's given Taylor an opportunity to become well-known in the area. It's good for Taylor to be on the radio."

In addition to the radio broadcasts, the games are Webcast on

the Internet so parents and alumni across the country can listen on their computers.

WBAT does special promos and coaches shows as well.

"It's set up so that people in the five county area, as well as alumni and parents listening at home, can hear about what's happening at Taylor," Bireline said.

The radio station also covers all of the teams' playoff games, including last year's trip to the National Tournament in Branson, Mo.

"We like doing Taylor games better than other games because of the winning tradition the men's team has built over the years," George said. "We always know we'll be covering a competitive team."



Photo by Ashley Smith

By JUSTIN POTTS
SPORTS EDITOR

The road to the National Tournament in Branson, Mo. got a little harder for Taylor when it was stifled 50-43 at Huntington on Tuesday night.

Huntington (22-7, 9-4) held Taylor to its lowest scoring output of the season in a defensive battle, denying its hopes of a third straight regular season Mid-Central Conference championship.

The first half was back and forth the whole way, with neither team able to find an easy basket. Taylor shot just 33.3 percent in the half, while Huntington shot even worse at 29.2 percent.

From three-point land, nothing was dropping either for the two teams that heavily rely on three-point shooting, as Taylor hit two of nine and Huntington hit just three of 12.

The half ended with Taylor on top 19-18.

In the second half, Taylor grabbed a quick six-point lead, but Huntington took the lead for good with just over 14 minutes remaining.

A pair of Matt Traylor free throws brought the Trojans within two, at 40-38 with 4:44 to play, but Huntington responded with a pair of three-point baskets by Ryan Thwaites and Adam Bontreger to take a 46-38 lead.

Doug Bell made a layup with 2:38 left to bring Taylor within six, but the Trojans would only get a lone Traylor three-pointer the rest of the way.

Huntington's Kyle Ganton hit four straight free throws down the stretch to preserve the win.

Eric Ford led Taylor in scoring with 13 points. Bell added 12 points and nine rebounds, while Traylor added 11 points and Mike Parsons seven rebounds and three blocks.

On Saturday, Taylor downed cross-county rival Indiana Wesleyan 77-57 thanks to hot shooting from Eric Ford. Ford connected on seven of 10 three-point shots for a game-high 27 points for the Trojans.

Taylor held a 33-26 lead at the half, but used its hot shooting to pull away in the second. Taylor hit nine of its first 12 shots of the half to build a big lead that it would never relinquish.

Taylor also went to the free throw line 28 times in the second half, making 22. Doug Bell alone converted 13 of 18 from the free throw line on his way to 21 points.

The Trojans held Indiana Wesleyan to just eight of 23 from three-point range and out-rebounded the Wildcats 33-24.

Bell added seven rebounds and Jason Hauck had five.

The loss to Huntington dropped Taylor to third in the MCC standings with just one game to play. Tomorrow, Grace comes to town for a 3 p.m. game.

Marian sits alone atop the MCC standings with a 10-3 conference record and 19-4 overall record. Huntington is in second, one game back.

Marian hosts Bethel tomorrow, Huntington travels to Indiana Wesleyan and St. Francis plays at Goshen.

A win tomorrow would give Taylor a first round MCC Tournament home game on Thursday night against either Grace or Goshen.



Photo by Matt Wissman

Eric Ford (above left) scored 27 points on Saturday against Indiana Wesleyan, hitting 7 of 10 three-pointers.

Men's MCC Standings (as of 2-19-04)		
	Overall	MCC
1. Marian	19-4	10-3
2. Huntington	22-7	9-4
3. Taylor	22-7	8-5
4. St. Francis	17-14	8-5
5. Bethel	20-11	6-7
6. Grace	10-18	4-9
7. Goshen	21-10	4-9
8. Ind. Wesleyan	11-16	3-10
Tomorrow's game		
♦Who: Grace (10-18, 4-9) at Taylor (22-7, 8-5)		
♦Tipoff: 3 p.m.		
♦Radio: WBAT- 1400 AM		

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